

achieve a level of excellence that I believe has been of value to Senators and their staff.

During Lawrence's time as staff director, we have produced more than 200 policy papers, and dozens of legislative notices. In each case, our goal was a first-rate product—one that would be thorough, accurate, and reliable—that would serve Senators, their staffers, the press, and the public. I commend him for all of his work and his successes in that regard.

Additionally, Lawrence has served as my agent and adviser on Senate leadership matters. He has attended leadership meetings with me and given me sound counsel. He has also managed and attended the Policy Committee's weekly luncheons.

I should mention that it was Lawrence who instituted the Policy Committee's practice of issuing detailed amendment descriptions in anticipation of every rollcall vote. The reception from this new service has been very positive: It has made the jobs of legislative directors and legislative aides vastly easier in preparing Senators for votes. That is just one example of innovations Lawrence has overseen.

I think it would be fair to suggest that many of my colleagues here today and others in the Senate reading these words in future days would want to join me in thanking him for a job well done. We would not be able to do the work we do were it not for staff members of the caliber of Lawrence Willcox.

Before I close, I note that Lawrence has been in public service for nearly all his working life. In addition to his more than 8 years of experience on Capitol Hill, including 3 years as a staffer in the House of Representatives, he served 5 years active duty as a naval officer, and he has also worked in both the judicial and executive branches, serving in various capacities, including as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Tax Division. Lawrence holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a law degree from American University, and a master's degree in tax law, LL.M., from New York University.

Lawrence is a person who is always growing from his experiences, putting his newfound knowledge to work in newer and better ways. So, while I wish him well, I am also confident that he will do well, and I hope to retain his friendship in the years ahead. Thank you, Lawrence.

TRIBUTE TO COAST GUARD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard who came to the rescue of the citizens of the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. On May 12, 2006, in one of the largest awards ceremonies in Coast

Guard history, 95 Coast Guard members received medals for their heroic efforts while rescuing thousands of victims stranded along the central Gulf Coast. The awards ceremony highlighted the Aviation Training Center near the Mobile Regional Airport. The center served as the staging base for more than 50 helicopters conducting rescue operations along the central Gulf Coast and—along with Sector Mobile personnel—is credited with saving more than 4,700 lives in the two weeks after Katrina.

The highest of the four awards presented—the Legion of Merit—went to Capt. David Callahan, commanding officer of the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center, and Capt. James Bjostad, commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Mobile. They received the award for their outstanding leadership in the aftermath of Katrina.

The Distinguished Flying Cross—the second highest award presented at the ceremony—went to 19 local Coast Guard personnel Commander Michael McCraw, Commander Patrick Gorman, Commander James O'Keefe, Lieutenant Commander Brian Hudson, Lieutenant Commander Jacob Brown, Lieutenant Commander William Sasser, Lieutenant Commander Mark Vislay, Lieutenant Commander Scott Langum, Lieutenant Gregory Houghton, Senior Chief Aviation Survival Technician Christopher Walker, Chief Aviation Survival Technician Martin Nelson, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Timothy Fortney, First Class Aviation Survival Technician John Williams, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Shepard, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Brian Doolittle, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Joel Sayers, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Mitchell Latta, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician William Lawson and Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Leahr.

The Meritorious Service Medal—the third highest award presented—was pinned on 13 Coast Guard members Captain Edwin Stanton, Commander Barry Compagnoni, Commander Mark Hemann, Commander Jason Fosdick, Commander Bradley Bean, Commander Melvin Bouboulis, Commander Thomas Tardibuono, Commander Ronald Cantin, Lieutenant Commander James Elliot, Chief Warrant Officer Four Thomas Milligan, Chief Warrant Officer Three Kenneth Hardenbrook, Senior Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician Robert Gagliano and Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician Scott Corner.

The Air Medal was awarded to 61 Coast Guard members Lieutenant Commander Christopher Chase, Lieutenant Commander Christopher Conley, Lieutenant Commander Robert DeCoopman, Lieutenant Commander David Edwards, Lieutenant Commander Christian Ferguson, Lieutenant Commander Eric Gleason, Lieutenant Commander Mark Hiigel, Lieutenant Commander Thomas McCormick,

Lieutenant Commander Edward Sandlin, Lieutenant Commander Patrick Shaw, Lieutenant Commander Thomas Swanberg, Lieutenant Thomas Bailey, Lieutenant Karen Cagle, Lieutenant Steven Cerveney, Lieutenant Cornelius Cummings, Lieutenant William Dronen, Lieutenant John Druelle, Lieutenant Thomas English, Lieutenant Todd Fisher, Lieutenant Mark Graboski, Lieutenant Wendy Hart, Lieutenant Brian Hopkins, Lieutenant Joseph Klatt, Lieutenant Richard Nameniuk, Lieutenant Stephen Priebe, Lieutenant Michael Rasch, Lieutenant William Strickland, Lieutenant Keith Trepanier, Lieutenant Charles Webb, Lieutenant Martin Simpson, Lieutenant Donnis Waters, Senior Chief Aviation Maintenance Technician John Burns, Senior Chief Aviation Survival Technician Jeffery Tunks, First Class Avionics Electrical Technician Ronald Jester, First Class Avionics Electrical Technician Jon Schroeder, First Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Anthony Johnson, First Class Aviation Survival Technician James Dix, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Blain Elkins, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Jeffrey Galbraith, First Class Aviation Survival Technician Dustin Skarra, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician Jason Edmiston, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Benjamin Berman, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Charles Lowmaster, Second Class Avionics Electrical Technician Stephanie Sera, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Robert Bradley, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Stevenjohn Conrad, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Stephen Frusan, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Gabriel Grise, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Michael Lewis, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Karl Williams, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Daniel Hoffmeier, Second Class Aviation Maintenance Technician David Villarreal, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician William Johnson, Second Class Aviation Survival Technician James Farmer, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Richard Amelio, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Joshua Nichols, Third Class Aviation Maintenance Technician Mathew Quiggle, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Keric Allen, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Sara Faulkner, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jeff Lowe, Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Jonathan Ptak and Third Class Aviation Survival Technician Aaron Raines.

Mr. President, these awards are a small token of the appreciation and thanks that are owed to the dedication to duty and self sacrifice these helicopter crews, technicians and support personnel displayed. The impact of the brave and tireless efforts of these 95 personnel directly impacted the rescue

of 50 times their number. These individuals deserve our gratitude, our praise and most importantly our continued support as they conduct on a daily basis, vital rescue and relief missions for the citizens of the Gulf Coast. Thank you for a job well done and for continuing to support our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SANDY BUCHANAN

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Sandy Buchanan of Cold Spring, KY, for her 41 years of service and devotion to the Disabled American Veterans. Her steadfast support reinforces her organization's honorable goal of building better lives for America's disabled veterans and their families.

The Disabled American Veterans is a service organization for the brave men and women who have become sick and disabled as a result of wartime military service. Founded in 1920, this organization serves veterans who have fought in combat since World War I.

Ms. Buchanan began work as a key-punch operator for the Disabled American Veterans on October 12, 1964. In her four decades of service, she has helped the organization grow from supporting 178,864 members to representing 1.3 million members. Over the years, she has risen to the position of executive assistant at the National Headquarters in Cold Spring, KY. During her tenure, Ms. Buchanan has served combat veterans of every war and conflict since World War I.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Buchanan for her dedication and commitment to the Disabled American Veterans. Her devotion to our Nation's combat heroes serves as an example to all citizens of the Commonwealth.●

CONGRATULATING ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate St. Elizabeth Medical Center of northern Kentucky. St. Elizabeth has been named as a magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Designation as a magnet hospital by this organization is an extremely prestigious honor, so much so that some have called it the Nobel Prize of hospital nursing. Fewer than 200 providers have received this recognition. This puts St. Elizabeth in the company of only 3 percent of U.S. hospitals.

Just as the award it has received indicates, St. Elizabeth acts as a magnet for nursing. It offers the exceptional quality of nursing care and attracts and retains the most talented nurses. Not only is this good news for St. Elizabeth, but it is good news for the community—they know that if they go to this facility, they will be receiving some of the best care in the country. I

am extremely excited that northern Kentucky is receiving the nursing care that it deserves.

I congratulate St. Elizabeth Medical Center on this achievement. Everyone involved with this institution is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky. I look forward to all that St. Elizabeth accomplishes in the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5384. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1736. An act to provide for the participation of employees in the judicial branch in the Federal leave transfer program for disasters and emergencies.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 3:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5403. An act to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.

At 4:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4681. An act to promote the development of democratic institutions in areas under the administrative control of the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5384. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 301. A resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Audubon Society.

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 801. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 300 North Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Florida, as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse".

S. 2650. A bill to designate the Federal courthouse to be constructed in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Federal Courthouse."

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services. Air Force nomination of Gen. Michael V. Hayden to be General.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2994. A bill to provide for the mandatory revocation, in addition to the mandatory denial, of passports of individuals who have a certain level of child support arrearages; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2995. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Butanedioic acid, dimethylester polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidine ethanol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2996. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4,6-bis(1,1-dimethylpropyl)phenol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2997. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Decanedioic acid, bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2998. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2-Bis(3-aminopropyl) ethylenediamine, polymer with N-butyl-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinamine and 2,4,6-trichloro-1,3,5-triazine; to the Committee on Finance.